

# RULES OF THE SENATE

## Table of Senate Rules 65th Legislature

Rule	Page
1. Quorum . . . . .	1
2. Absentees . . . . .	2
3. Absences . . . . .	2
4. Roll Call . . . . .	2
Call Of The Senate . . . . .	2
Senate's Right To Await Attendance Of All Absentees . . . . .	3
5. Presiding Officer Of The Senate . . . . .	4
6. Election Of President Pro Tempore . . . . .	5
7. Election Of Officers . . . . .	5
8. Open Doors . . . . .	6
9. Order Of Business . . . . .	6
10. Roll Call, Prayer By Chaplain, Reading Of Journal . . . . .	6
11. Morning Call . . . . .	6
12. Order Of Considering Bills And Resolutions . . . . .	7
13. House Bill Days . . . . .	8
14. Special Orders . . . . .	9
15. Rulings By President . . . . .	10
16. Motions And Their Precedence . . . . .	10
17. Limitation Of Debate . . . . .	14
18. Written Motions . . . . .	15
19. Withdrawal Of Motion . . . . .	15
20. Motions To Fix Sum Or State Time . . . . .	16
21. Division Of Question . . . . .	16
22. Reason For Vote . . . . .	17
23. Reconsideration . . . . .	17
24. Spreading Motion To Reconsider On Journal . . . . .	19
25. Reading Of Papers . . . . .	19
26. Mode Of Stating And Voting Upon Questions . . . . .	20
27. Lieutenant Governor To Give Casting Vote . . . . .	20
28. Effect Of Tie Vote When Lieutenant Governor Absent . . . . .	20
29. Calls For Yeas And Nays By Three Members . . . . .	21
30. Members Refusing To Answer Recorded Present . . . . .	21
31. Matters Requiring Vote Of Two-Thirds Of All Members . . . . .	21
Vetoed Bills . . . . .	22
32. Matters Requiring Vote Of Two-Thirds Of Members Present . . . . .	22
33. Suspension Of Three-Day Rule . . . . .	24
34. Elections . . . . .	24
35. Elections . . . . .	24

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## **Rule 13**

### **Notes of Rulings**

A House bill, by a two-thirds vote, may be taken up and considered by the Senate on any day of the week (46 S.J. Reg. 634-635 (1939)).

When the Senate adjourns on Thursday of any week with a House bill pending, the bill then pending, whether it is a special order or not, may not be further considered until Wednesday of the next succeeding week unless the Senate by a two-thirds vote agrees to consider it further prior to that day (46 S.J. Reg. 1704 (1939)).

House bills may be considered in Senate under a suspension of the regular order of business on days other than calendar Wednesday and calendar Thursday (48 S.J. Reg. 1051 (1943)).

When a Member is discussing a Senate Bill on calendar Monday or calendar Tuesday (which are considered Senate Bill Days in the Senate) and 12:01 o'clock a.m. Wednesday arrives (which is considered a House Bill Day in the Senate), no further discussion may be had on the Senate Bill (61 S.J. Reg. 956 (1969)).

### **SPECIAL ORDERS**

**14. Any bill, resolution or other measure may, on any day, be made a special order for a future time of the session by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members present.**

**A special order shall be considered at the time for which it is set and considered from day to day until disposed of, unless at the time so fixed there is pending business under a special order, but such pending business may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of all the Members present. If a special order is not reached or considered at the time fixed, it shall not lose its place as a special order; provided further that all special orders shall be subject to the Joint Rules and Senate Rule 13.**

### **Editorial Notes**

A bill once set as a special order does not lose its place on the Calendar of special orders if not taken up at the hour for which it is set.

A special order, the hour for the consideration of which has arrived, takes precedence of the unfinished business unless the unfinished business is itself a special order.

### **Notes of Rulings**

An affirmative vote of two-thirds of all Senators present including those who ask to be recorded as "present-not voting" is required to set a special order (49 S.J. Reg. 427 (1945)).

## **Rule 14**

The motion to set a bill for a special order is not a proper substitute for a motion to suspend the regular order of business and take up a bill for immediate consideration (50 S.J. Reg. 1005 (1947)).

A bill being considered as a special order that is laid on the table subject to call is no longer a special order (43 S.J. Reg. 980 (1933)).

Refusal of Senate to set bill as special order for a certain hour does not prevent a motion's being made and adopted immediately thereafter to set the bill as a special order for a different specified hour (45 S.J. Reg. 860 (1937)).

The Senate, by a two-thirds vote, may take up a bill out of its regular order for immediate consideration although there is an unfinished special order on the President's table awaiting the Senate's consideration (49 S.J. Reg. 1053 (1945)).

When the business before the Senate is a Special Order, the order of business may be suspended in order to consider other business (61 S.J. Reg. 2034 (1969)).

## **RULINGS BY PRESIDENT**

**15. Every question of order shall in the first instance be decided by the President, from whose decision any Member may appeal to the Senate. Rulings which set or alter precedent shall be printed as an annotation to the Rules.**

### **Editorial Note**

A Member called to the Chair pending an appeal does not entertain any motions nor accept any further point of order.

See also Editorial Note following Rule 5.

## **MOTIONS AND THEIR PRECEDENCE**

**16. When a question is under consideration by the Senate, no motion shall be made except:**

- (1) to fix the day to which the Senate shall adjourn or recess;**
- (2) to adjourn or recess;**
- (3) to proceed to the transaction of executive business;**

**Rule 29**

**CALLS FOR YEAS AND NAYS BY THREE MEMBERS**

29. (a) At the desire of any three Members present, the yeas and nays shall be entered on the Journal, and the names of the Members present and not voting shall be recorded immediately after those voting in the affirmative and negative, and such Members shall be counted in determining the presence of a quorum (Constitution, Article 3, Section 12).

(b) If a Member who is absent desires to be recorded on a pending question he may cast a paired vote by signing a pair slip which indicates his yea or nay vote with a Member who is present and casting an opposite vote, if the Member who is present so desires. Pair slips must be signed by both the absent and present Member and filed with the Secretary of the Senate before the vote. The vote of the absent Member, while recorded as an expression of his opinion of the matter considered, shall not be counted in the total of votes for or against the measure or motion.

**Editorial Note**

Verification of a yea and nay vote is not provided for by any rule, but when a vote is close, it has been the practice for the presiding officer to order a verification when requested by any Member to do so.

**MEMBERS REFUSING TO ANSWER RECORDED PRESENT**

30. Upon a roll call of the Senate, should any Member who is in the Senate Chamber fail or refuse to answer when his name is called, the Secretary of the Senate shall, under the direction of the President of the Senate, record such Member as present.

**MATTERS REQUIRING VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS  
OF ALL MEMBERS**

31. (a) A vote of two-thirds of all Members elected to the Senate shall be required:

(1) for the final passage of proposed amendments to the Constitution (Constitution, Article 17, Section 1);

(2) in cases of great public calamity to release the payment of taxes (Constitution, Article 8, Section 10);

## **Rule 31**

(3) for the final passage of bills to reduce a county to a less area than nine hundred square miles (Constitution, Article 9, Section 1);

(4) for the passage of an address to the Governor for the removal of any civil officer (Constitution, Article 15, Section 8);

(5) to expel a Member (Constitution, Article 3, Section 11).

### **Note of Ruling**

A vote of two-thirds of the Members is not required for passage of bill to create flood control district and donate portion of taxes collected therein to the district (48 S.J. Reg. 1053 (1943)).

## **VETOED BILLS**

(b) A vote of two-thirds of all Members elected to the Senate shall be required for the passage of House bills that have been returned by the Governor with his objections, and a vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate present shall be required for the passage of Senate bills that have been returned by the Governor with his objections (Constitution, Article 4, Section 14).

### **Note of Ruling**

A specific case in which the vote of yeas and nays did not pass the bill over the Governor's veto is found at 47 S.J. Reg. 2748 (1941).

## **MATTERS REQUIRING VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS OF MEMBERS PRESENT**

32. (a) A vote of two-thirds of all Members present shall be required:

(1) for the impeachment of any officer (Constitution, Article 15, Section 3);

(2) to excuse absentees;

(3) to adopt an amendment at third reading of a bill or a joint resolution;

## **Rule 32**

**(4) to postpone or change the order of business;**

**(5) to suspend, rescind or amend any Rule of the Senate.**  
**Joint Rules of the two Houses may be adopted or amended by a simple majority of the Members elected to the Senate and shall take precedence over Senate Rules in conflict.**

**(b) A vote of two-thirds of the Members present shall be required for the confirmation of any appointee of the Governor, unless otherwise directed by law (Constitution, Article 4, Section 12).**

### **Historical Notes**

The following rule was adopted by the Senate in 1911 (32 S.J. Reg. 790):  
"Rule 61a. It shall only require a majority vote of all Senators present to suspend pending business for the purpose of taking up and considering Senate Bill No. 1 and House Bill No. 226, any other rule or order to the contrary notwithstanding."

Rule 63 as adopted at the regular session in 1911 read as follows: "Any rule or order of the Senate may be rescinded by a majority vote of all members elected . . . ."

The following rule of the preceding legislature was eliminated from the 1911 Senate rules: "No standing rule or order of the Senate shall be rescinded or changed without one day's notice being given of the motion therefor."

The following is the text of the old rule on rescinding, which was adopted by the Senate of the 34th Legislature:

"(64) Any rule, order or act of the Senate may be rescinded or changed by a two-thirds vote of all Members present, except where otherwise provided by the Constitution or the laws." (34 S.J. Reg. 977 (1915)).

The rule was later amended to require two-thirds of all Members to rescind or change a rule, and in 1939 the item (5) above was inserted in lieu of the old Rule 64.

### **Note of Ruling**

Pending consideration of a conference report, a motion to suspend its consideration and take up a Senate bill for immediate consideration is in order. The motion is divisible, since it involves the suspension of Rule 26 (now Rule 16) and also of Rule 13 (now Rule 12), 61st Leg. (51 S.J. Reg. 1555 (1949)).

## **Rule 32**

### **Editorial Note**

This ruling and other late Senate precedents relative to suspending a pending question for the purpose of taking up another indicate that it has become the prevailing opinion of the Senate's presiding officers and its Members that any pending debatable question, even a highly privileged one or one with high priority for consideration, may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Senate for the purpose of taking up another matter on the President's table for immediate consideration. Suspending a question that has itself been taken up under a suspension would most likely not be permitted.

### **SUSPENSION OF THREE-DAY RULE**

**33. It shall require a vote of four-fifths of the Senate to suspend the Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days (Constitution, Article 3, Section 32).**

### **Editorial Note**

"Four-fifths of the Senate" means four-fifths of the Members present, provided a quorum is present.

### **Note of Ruling**

A motion to suspend the Constitutional Rule and Senate Rule 32 (now Rule 68) requiring bills to be read on three several days may be made although the same motion has been made and defeated on the same bill on the same legislative day (55 S.J. Reg. 1561 (1957)).

### **ELECTIONS**

**34. In all elections of the Senate, the vote shall be given viva voce, except in the election of officers of the Senate (Constitution, Article 3, Section 41).**

**35. A majority of the whole number of votes cast shall be necessary for a choice in all elections by the Senate.**

### **NOMINATIONS BY THE GOVERNOR**

**36. When nominations shall be sent to the Senate by the Governor, a future day shall be assigned for action thereon, unless the Senate unanimously direct otherwise. They shall be referred directly to either the Subcommittee on Nominations or the standing committee with jurisdiction over the subject matter involved, which shall hold hearings and report its actions directly back to the Senate.**